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### **Legislators Propose Constitutional Amendment to Hold Politicians Accountable**

*HJR 16 would let voters decide whether the Legislature should have the power to impeach statewide elected officials*

SALEM - Today, the Oregon House passed House Joint Resolution 16, a proposed constitutional amendment that would hold politicians accountable by giving the Legislature the authority to impeach statewide elected officials. If signed into law, the resolution would be sent to voters for approval during the 2024 election.

“Accountability, transparency and good governance are values that all Oregonians share – regardless of party affiliation,” **said House Majority Leader Julie Fahey** (D-West Eugene & Veneta), a chief sponsor of the bill. “This policy will be an important tool for holding politicians accountable and improving trust in government.”

“Impeachment is a means of using the people’s voice in the Legislature to hold the Executive branch accountable, and can be found in every state in the nation—except Oregon,” **said Representative Jami Cate** (R-Lebanon), a chief sponsor of the bill. “HJR 16 will give Oregonians the long overdue opportunity to create this power and bring more checks and balances to our state government.”

If approved by voters, the impeachment clause would give the House of Representatives the power to bring impeachment forward, with a vote of two-thirds of the chamber. Impeachable offenses listed in the resolution are “malfeasance or corrupt conduct in office, willful neglect of statutory or constitutional duty or other felony or high crime.”

If an impeachment case is advanced to the Senate, the Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court would preside, and a conviction would require a vote of two-thirds of the Senate.

The legislation passed unanimously and now heads to the Senate for consideration.

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